



The Christ Files: How Historians Know What They Know about Jesus

John Dickson

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In *The Christ Files*, a four-session small group Bible study, scholar John Dickson examines the Christian faith through a historical look at the Christian faith and life of Jesus from both Scriptural and other non-Bible documentation.

Unique among the world's religions, the central claims of Christianity concern not just timeless spiritual truths, but tangible historical events as well. Historian John Dickson examines Christianity's claims in the light of history, opening you and your group to a wealth of ancient sources and explaining how mainstream scholars – whether or not they claim Christian Faith personally – reach their conclusions about history's most influential figure, Jesus of Nazareth.

In *The Christ Files*, Dickson skillfully highlights sources and historical methods used to study Christianity's assertions. He illustrates how historians assess the reliability of data, and provides an honest and informed perspective on where historical issues or clear-cut and where personal faith comes into play.

The Christ Files will help you and your small group expand your understanding of early Christianity and the life of Jesus.

This 110-page Participant Guide includes seven chapters of reading and background contextual information, along with questions for four impactful small group sessions. It is meant for use in conjunction with the four-session *The Christ Files DVD* (sold separately).

Chapter titles:

1. The Game of Scholarship...How to Read between the Haedlines
2. Secret Gospels...Jesus in the Gnostic Writings
3. The Troublemaker...Jesus in Ancient Pagan Writings
4. Deceiver and Magician...Jesus in Ancient Jewish Writings
5. Behind the New Testament...Earliest Christian Sources
6. Before the Gospels...Jesus in the Oral Tradition
7. Jesus in Context...Background Sources for the Study of Jesus

Small Group Study sessions include:

1. Gnostics and Romans
2. Jews and Christians
3. Lost Sources and Oral Traditions
4. Archaeologists and Artifacts

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